Paralakhemundi Railway Station in Orissa

3018. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to close down Paralakhemundi Railway Station in Ganjam district, Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to review the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Introduction of Train from Delhi to Ayodhya

3019. KUMARI ALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a Shatabdi type train between Delhi and Ayodhya via Faizabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

Broad-gauge Railway line in Gujarat

3020. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for putting up a broad gauge railway line between Gandhidham and Kutch in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details of proposals of new railway lines which are likely to be included in the Eighth Five Year Plan in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Eighth Plan proposals have not been finalised so far.

Mobile Book stall in the Trains

3021. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the period of agreement of each mobile Book-stall running in the trains is for three years and renewal is also made for the same period; and

(b) if so, whether it is a fact the Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railways are not following the same, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) At present, the instructions are that all catering/vending and Book-stall contracts due renewal should be renewed for a period of three months only. These instructions are applicable to all the Zonal Railways including Eastern and South Eastern Railways.

Pilferage and theft in Railways

3022. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pilferage and theft in Railways are on the increase and that the same has resulted into unnecessary payment of claims during the current financial year as compared to the corresponding period last year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the increase is due to demoralisation of RPF staff who have either been removed from service of facing charges on petty omissions/annonymous complaints, especially in Northern Railways; and

(c) what remedial measures Government propose to take to curb the crimes and to boost the morale of force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir. The number of theft/pilferage cases of consignments booked with Railways during the last financial year (1990-91) were 20188 as compared to 23773 during 1989-90 and 26627 in 1988-89.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Filling up of Posts of Assistant legal Adviser in the Railways

3023. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have invited applications to fill up some posts of Assistant Legal Adviser, if so, what is the number of posts indicating the break up of roster points and the number of applications received therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a few candidates were considered suitable for the post, if so, the details of the candidates interviewed and empanelled; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that names of some suitable Scheduled Caste candidates were also sent to the UPSC but they were not called for the interview, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) In December, 1988, applications were invited to fill up the only post of Assistant Legal Adviser, Railway Board. As the post is filled up by the combined method of 'transfer on deputation or promotion', reservation rules are not applicable. In all, 6 applications including that of a Scheduled Caste Officer were received, which were forwarded to UPSC for consideration. Out of this, only 3 candidates belonging to general category, were considered eligible by UPSC. The Departmental candidate was selected by UPSC for promotion to the post of Assistant Legal Adviser, Railway Board. The UPSC did not conduct interview of the eligible candidates.

Platforms at Shivaji Bridge and Tilak Bridge

3024. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the present covered sheds on the platforms at Shivaji Bridge and Tilak Bridge Stations in Delhi are inadequate for the passengers in Summer and Rainy seasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): No, Sir.

Unauthorised Hawking of Books and Magazines on the Platforms

3025. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Divisional Railway Manager, New Delhi has stated in his letter No. 23AC/179/NDLAS|MS|P. I dated 17th May, 1990 that the unauthorised hawking of Books and Magazines on the Platforms of New Delhi Station is going on under the shelter of GRP; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) It was suggested in the letter No. 23-AC/179/NDLS|MSP-I dated the 17th May, 1990 that to reduce unauthorised hawking, additional tables may be permitted at New Delhi Station. Subsequently, however, the matter was reviewed and this proposal was dropped and a sustained drive has been launched by the Railways to curb the unauthorised hawking at this station.

Facilities of free railway pass etc. to Retiring Railway Employees

3026. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that free Railway pass facilities are also available to